

## Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 050929Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4121

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LISBON 5172

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMES

REF: LISBON 5092

1. NEWLY ARRIVED ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ALVERA MADE DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMES SEPTEMBER 2. PER REFTEL HE HAD A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF GIVE US A REPORT THE SAME DAY. HE HIMSELF DID NOT WISH TO MEET WITH ME IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER "SINCE WE ARE BOTH BEING WATCHED." WE MET TODAY AND HE GAVE ME A FULL DESCRIPTION OF HIS MEETING.

2. ALVERA'S DEMARCHE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A STRONG ONE FOLLOWING ALONG THE LINES OF OUR TALKING POINTS. HE TOLD COSTA GOMES THAT PORTUGAL WAS AT A CROSSROADS AND THAT PRESIDENT'S DECISION WOULD BE AN HISTORICAL ONE.

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3. ALVERA RECEIVED PRETTY MUCH THE STANDARD REPLY, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE HEARING IT. COSTA GOMES SAID HE WAS TRYING TO BRING ALL GROUPS TOGETHER AND PREVENT CIVIL WAR. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESENT IMPASSE REALLY RESTED WITH SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP SINCE THEY HAD NO VALID REASON FOR LEAVING GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT HOPED TO PUT TOGETHER NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT SOON. PCP WOULD BE INCLUDED.

4. ALVERA IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY ABLE AND ARTICULATE DIPLOMAT WHO WILL BE AN ASSET HERE. HOWEVER, HE SEEMS TO MAKE RAPID JUDGMENTS ON PEOPLE. FOR EXAMPLE HE WAS IMPRESSED BY COSTA GOMES'S SINCERITY AND CONSIDERED HIM "POLITICALLY SHREWED." I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD ALL BEEN INITIALLY IMPRESSED WITH COSTA GOMES BUT HAD BECOME MORE CYNICAL WITH PASSAGE OF TIME AS PRESIDENT PASSED UP OPPORTUNITY AFTER OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAUSE. I DIDN'T CONSIDER GIVING UP PART OF YOUR OWN POWER BASE (THE CHIEF OF STAFF POSITION) TO A MAN LIKE GONCALVES IN THE HOPE HE WOULD HANG HIMSELF POLITICALLY SHREWD.

5. ALVERA ASKED WHAT WE COULD DO NEXT. I SAID MOST USEFUL THING FOR GOI WOULD BE TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT EC NINE WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF "THE NINE" AND SOCIALISTS SHOULD THEY SUCCEED IN GAINING POWER. ALVERA SAID HE COULD GIVE ASSURANCES THAT ITALY AS CHAIRMAN WOULD WORK FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH A GOVERNMENT. HE AUTHORIZED ME TO COMMUNICATE THIS INDIRECTLY TO MELO ANTUNES SINCE HE DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE PRACTICAL TO MEET WITH HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.  
CARLUCCI

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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